

Message Text

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20

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SP-03 CIEP-03 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-07 SS-20

STR-08 CEA-02 DODE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01 DOTE-00

DRC-01 /174 W

----- 074061

R 302145Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8238

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMCONSUL BELIZE

UNCLAS SAN JOSE 3777

PASS: AGRIC/FAS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, CS

SUBJ: AGRICULTURAL LOSSES FROM HURRICANE FIFI

1. MAJOR EFFECT OF HURRICANE FIFI WAS TORRENTIAL RAINS WHICH RESULTED IN FLOODING IN MAIN GUANACASTE AGRICULTURAL ZONE AND TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ROAD TRANSIT DUE TO CLOSING OF SEVERAL KEY BRIDGES AND ROADS. NO OFFICIAL ESTIMATE OF LOSSES HAS YET BEEN MADE BUT MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE VISITED REGION OVER WEEK-END.

2. LOW-LYING AREAS THAT WERE FLOODED ARE AREAS THAT ARE FREQUENTLY INUNDATED DURING RAINY SEASON EXCEPT
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WATER LEVEL WAS HIGHER THIS TIME DUE TO UNUSUAL

DURATION OF TORRENTIAL RAINS. IF ANY, MAJOR EFFECT WILL BE ON RICE PRODUCTION, BUT WITH WATERS RECEEDING GRADUALLY, GENERALLY OH OUGHT THAT THERE WILL BE MORE THAN BALANCING BENEFIT TO PLOTS THAT HAD SUFFERED FROM DROUGHT IN JULY. NO UNUSUAL CATTLE LOSSES RPORTED. SOME SUGAR CANE FIELDS FLOODED BUT NO SIGNIFICANT DAMAGE REPORTED. COFFEE BEANS WERE STILL GREEN AND NO SERIOUS LOSSES INDICATED. BEAN PRODUCTION NOT IN AREAS OF HEAVY FLOODING. BANANA COMPANIES REPORT NO NOTABLE LOSSES, BUT SOME TEMPORARY TRANSPORTATION DISLOCATION.

3. OVERALL, A BENEFIT TO AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION FROM TORRENTIAL RAINS AND FLOODING. AREAS THAT HAD BEEN SUFFERING FROM DROUGHT HAVE RESTORED GROUND MOISTURE WHICH SHOULD HELP TO CARRY PASTURES LONGER INTO DRY SEASON. WITH WATER LEAVING FLOODED RICE FIELDS GRADUALLY, THERE SHOULD BE NO SERIOUS DAMAGE AND ADDED MOISTURE TO THOSE AREAS SUFFERING FROM DROUGHT CONDITION SHOULD BE A PLUS.

LANE

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30 JUN 2005

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